

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2A, 2B, 5, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 27. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 2A, 2B, 5, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 27. These figures are amended in response to the Examiner's objection as discussed in the Remarks.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

{ 12, 13 }

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated July 15, 2009, Claims 26, 28, 32, 33, 37-39, 41-45, and 48-61 were pending in this application.

In this Amendment, claims 26, 28, 37, 38, 48, 49, 51, and 53-55 have been amended, and claims 32, 33, 39, 41-45, 50, 52, and 56-61 canceled, without prejudice, reserving right to prosecution in a divisional or continuation application. The specification and drawings have also been amended for better form. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Support for the amendments to the claims will be discussed in relation to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. At the least, the present Amendment reduces the number of issues, such as the claim objection and rejection under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112, thereby placing the application in better condition for Appeal. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, and favorable consideration, are respectfully solicited pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claims 26, 28, 37, 38, 48, 49, 51, and 53-55 are now active in this application, of which claim 26 is independent.

Drawings

Objection has been made to the drawings. Applicants have amended the drawings in response to the Examiner's comments in paragraph 5 of the Office Action as set forth below. Amended Figures 2A, 2B, 5, and 27 are the same as those filed on February 22, 2008 which the Examiner did not consider (*see* paragraph 1 of the Office Action). Figs. 12, 13, 18, and 19 have been revised in consideration of the Examiner's comments in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. The figures submitted herewith replace those submitted February 22, 2008.

Comment 1: “a line from each numeral to the structure it denotes should be set forth, e.g. no numeral separated by commas as seen in Figures 12 and 13 nor parentheses either as proposed” (paragraph 4 of the Office Action).

The following changes are made to the drawings:

Fig. 12, “B11, B22” is changed to -- B22 --.

Fig. 13, “B11, B22” is changed to -- B22 --.

Fig. 18, “B11, B22” is changed to -- B22 --.

Fig. 19, “B11, B22” is changed to -- B22 --.

In relation to the above amendments of the figures, paragraph [145] of the specification has also been amended.

Comments 2: “In Figure 1, what is the structure at the end of the line from numeral 3?” (paragraph 5 of the Office Action).

Page 16, line 12 of the original specification describes, “[t]his absorbent core 3 is manufactured from e.g. flocculent pulp....” The structure at the end of the line from numeral 3 shows the material of the absorbent core, for example, flocculent pulp.

Comment 3: “outlines of structure underlying other structure and lines from numerals denoting such structures should be dashed e.g. the line from 101 in Figure 12 and 100 in Figure 18 should be dashed” (paragraph 5 of the Office Action).

First, numeral 100 in Fig. 18 is changed to --101--. Second, the lines identified by the Examiner are changed to the dashed lines. Numeral 101 designates an after-treatment tape provided on the back surface of overall sheet Y.

Comment 4: “Structure which is the same in various should be shown consistently, e.g. see the fixing /adhesive shown by asterisks ... which does not show such” (paragraph 5 of the Office Action).

Asterisks are added to Fig. 2B in the same manner as Fig 2A.

Comment 5: “The Figures should be consistent with the textual description, e.g. where is ZW in Figure 27 as described in paragraph 174?” (paragraph 5 of the Office Action).

Fig. 27 has been amended to show reference “ZW.”

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Description

The description has been objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended the specification as set forth above.

In paragraph 6, the Examiner specifically stated as follows: “The Summary of the Invention section, i.e. a description of the claimed invention, and the invention of the claims should be commensurate in scope, see MPEP 608.01 (see and note that discussion *infra* in paragraphs 9-10 also).”

Applicants understand that the summary of invention section should be consistent with the subject matter of the claims (see MPEP 608.01(d)). However, as there are outstanding issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, the claimed subject matter may have to be revised in response to the Examiner’s future response. Accordingly, correction of the summary of invention section is not ripe at this time. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

hold the objection regarding the summary of the invention section in abeyance until all the outstanding issues are solved (*see* MPEP 1302.01).

Claim Objections

Objections have been made to the claims because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 26, 28, 37, 38, 48, 49, 51, and 53-55 in consideration of the Examiner's comments. It is noted that the objections to claims 32, 33, 39, 41-45, 50, 52, and 56-61 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims. Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the objections to the claims.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. §112

1. Claims 26, 28, 32, 33, 37-39, 41-45, and 48-61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended claims 26, 28, 37, 38, 48, 49, 51, and 53-55 in consideration of the Examiner's comments. The rejection of claims 32, 33, 39, 41-45, 50, 52, and 56-61 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims. Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and favorable consideration thereof.

2. Claims 26, 28, 32, 33, 37-39, 41-45, and 48-61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The Examiner stated that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants have amended claims 26, 28, 37, 38, 48, 49, 51, and 53-55 in consideration of the Examiner's comments. The rejection of claims 32, 33, 39, 41-45, 50, 52, and 56-61 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims. Support for the amendments to the claims is indicated below:

Claim 26: page 16, lines 9-19; page 17, lines 4-10 and lines 21-28; page 18, lines 15-22; page 19, lines 2-12; and page 20, lines 14-22 of the original specification.

Claim 28: page 18, lines 3-10 of the original specification.

Claims 37 and 38: page 7, lines 15-19 of the original specification.

Claim 48: original Fig. 1 and Fig. 2A.

Claim 49: page 6, line 11 to page 7, line 3 of the original specification.

Claim 51: page 17, lines 21-28; page 18, lines 15-22; and page 20, lines 3-12 and lines 14-22 of the original specification.

Claim 53: page 32, line 28 to page 33, line 8; and page 34, lines 22-28 of the original specification.

Claim 54: page 16, lines 9-19; and page 33, lines 3-8 of the original specification.

Claim 55: page 34, lines 22-28

As indicated above, the pending claims have clear support in the original disclosure of the present application. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and favorable consideration thereof.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the

application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tomoki Tanida', written in a cursive style.

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